

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 LUANDA 00458 171853Z

53

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 IO-14 SAM-01 PM-07 NSC-07 SP-03

SS-20 RSC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04

USIA-15 PRS-01 L-03 SIL-01 LAB-06 DRC-01 /138 W

----- 054646

R 171330Z JUN 74

FM AMCONSUL LUANDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2708

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LUANDA 0458

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT AO

SUBJECT: NEW GOVGEN ARRIVES - BRINGS NO RELIEF

1. ARRIVAL OF NEW GOVGEN SILIVINO SILVERIO MARQUES JUNE 15 BORDERED ON BEING A NON-EVENT. HE REVIEWED TOKEN HONOR GUARD AT AIRPORT (50 PERCENT OF WHOM BLACK); GREETED ASSEMBLED DIGNITAR-IES; DECLINED TO MAKE STATEMENT TO PRESS; DROVE TO PALACE VIA ROUTE MARKED BY HEAVY SECURITY. LATER IN DAY AT CHANGE-OF-COMMAND CEREMONY HE GAVE UNEXCEPTIONAL BUT CONVOLUTED SPEECH MOSTLY DEVOTED TO PRAISE OF THE ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT AND SPINOLA BUT CONCLUDING WITH HIS "OBVIOUSLY PROVISIONAL MANDATE:"

- "TO TRANQUILIZE TROUBLED SPIRITS WITH HELP OF ANGOLAN PEOPLE;"

- "TO CREATE CONDITIONS FOR A FREE AND RESPONSIBLE CLARIFICATION OF OUR PEOPLE SO THAT THEY WILL BE PLACED IN A POSTION TO DECIDE DEMOCRATICALLY, IN A FUTURE REFERENDUM, THEIR DESTINY, THE DESTINY OF ANGOLA, AND WITH IT THAT OF THE ENTIRE NATION" (I.E., PORTUGAL);

- "TO PREVENT ANGOLA'S RETOGRESSION" AND TO LEAD IT TOWARD A HIGHER STANDARD OF LIVING AND A BETTER DISTRIBUTION OF ITS WEALTH.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 LUANDA 00458 171853Z

FOLLOWING THE CEREMONY HE MET WITH PRESS, BUT ONLY TO GREET THEM.

2. HIS RECEPTION WAS ANYTHING BUT ENTHUSIASTIC, AND NEW GOVGEN HIMSELF IS FAR FROM BEING THE KIND OF EXTROVERT POLITICAL HIS PREDECESSOR WAS. MOOD OF DIGNITARIES AT AIRPORT AND AT PALACE CEREMONY MATCHED THE GRAY DRABNESS OF LUANDA'S WINTER AND GOVGEN'S MANNER. MOST OF THOSE ON HAND ASIDE FROM MILITARY HIERARCHY WERE LAME DUCK CIVILIAN AUTHORITIES PLUS SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF BUSINESS LEADERS, INCLUDING REPRESENTATIVES OF HUGE CONGLOMERATES. ONE SOON-TO-DEPART DIGNITARY COMMENTED TO ME THAT THE ONLY PERSON MISSING SEEMED TO BE THE FORMER DGS CHIEF, OTHERWISE "SAME OLD CROWD." IT WAS, WITH ALMOST NO NON-WHITES PRESENT OTHER THAN DOZEN SENIOR CIVIL SERVANTS FROM OLD REGIME.

3. MILITARY AND POLICE TOOK EXTRAORDINARY (FOR LUANDA) SECURITY MEASURES TO PREVENT TROUBLE, EXPECTED FROM LOW AND MIDDLE CLASS WHITES. AS IT TURNED OUT, THESE WERE ABOUT THE ONLY PEOPLE LINING THE ROUTE TO THE PALACE, SILENT AND GLUM. LEFTIST DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT HAD DISTRIBUTED LEAFLETS JUNE 14 URGING POPULACE TO STAY AWAY FROM AIRPORT; WE UNDERSTAND MPLA ALSO INSTRUCTED BLACKS TO BOYCOTT ARRIVAL. WHATEVER THE REASON, VERY FEW BLACKS WERE TO BE SEEN ANYWHERE.

4. AS GOVGEN WALKED OUT OF AIRPORT TERMINAL, HE WAS MET BY FOUR LARGE BANNERS "WELCOMING" HIM. THEY ADDED TO THE GENERAL DAMP ATMOSPHERE: "SILVINO GO AWAY." "GET RID OF EDUCATION SECRETARY." "ALFONSO MEDES - POLICE OPPRESSION." "WORKERS REPUDIATE LABOR SECRETARY." (ALFONSO MEDES IS PROBABLE NEW LABOR SECRETARY.) QUESTIONED AS TO WHAT HE WAS UP TO, YOUNG AFRICAN HOLDING ONE END OF SIGN (OTHER WAS WHITE - AS WITH MOST BANNERS) SAID HE DID NOT KNOW, HE HAD BEEN HIRED OFF THE STREET TO HELP OUT. SEVERAL OLD GUARD OFFICIALS ON HAND LAUGHED OPENLY AT THE BANNERS, WHICH WE UNDERSTAND WERE THE PERSONAL WORK OF THE HEAD OF THE WHITE COLLAR WORKERS UNION.

5. AT PALACE CEREMONY SILVERIO MARQUES LOOKED OLD AND TIRED. HIS SPEECH WAS SOMEWHAT CONVOLUTED (VINTAGE SALAZAR) AND AT TIMES BORDERED ON THE SYCOPHANCY OF THE PAST. SPINOL WAS DESCRIBED AS "LEGENDARY FIGURE," "GREAT MILITARY LEADER," "GREAT PORTUGUES," "HONORED GUARANTOR OF MFA PROGRAM."

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 LUANDA 00458 171853Z

6. COMMENT: SPEECH POSSIBLY WAS INTENDED TO SOOTHE THE ESTABLISHMENT HERE, BUT CERTAINLY HELD LITTLE FOR THOSE LOOKING TO EARLY POLITICAL SOLUTIONS. EXPECTATIONS AS WELL AS APPREHENSIONS HERE HAVE BEEN HIGH, AS HAVE BEEN HOPES THAT THE ARRIVAL OF THE NEW GOVGEN WOULD AT LAST BRING SOME RELIEF TO THOSE (PRACTICALLY EVERYONE) LOOKING TO HIGHER AUTHORITY FOR GUIDANCE. SILVERIO MARQUES' ARRIVAL COULD HARDLY HAVE SATISFIED THEM AT ALL. THE VIRTUAL ABSENCE OF BLACKS SEEMED TO GIVE THE LIE TO

HOPEFUL ASSERTIONS THAT SILVERIO MARQUES WAS "POPULAR" WITH
AFRICANS. RATHER, JUNE 15 DRAMATIZED THE FACT THAT ANGOLA AWAITS
ITS UNKNOWN FUTURE AND URGENTLY NEEDS LEADERSHIP.
BRIGGS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNOR GENERAL, SPEECHES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 JUN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: WorrelSW
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974LUANDA00458
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740157-0634
From: LUANDA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740639/aaaabhsh.tel
Line Count: 119
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: WorrelSW
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 MAY 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <11 MAR 2003 by WorrelSW>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NEW GOVGEN ARRIVES - BRINGS NO RELIEF
TAGS: PINT, AO, (MARQUES, SILIVINO SILVERIO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005